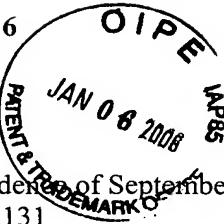


**Response Under 37 CFR 1.116**  
**Expedited Procedure**  
**Examining Group 1762**  
Application No. 10/720,646  
Paper Dated: January 3, 2006  
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of September 2, 2005  
Attorney Docket No. 0115-032131



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/720,646  
Applicant : Heini Zollinger  
Filed : November 24, 2003  
Title : METHOD OF PRODUCING A JOINTLESS AND POROUS GRANULAR COVERING, AND GRANULAR COVERING PRODUCED BY THIS METHOD  
Group Art Unit : 1762 Confirmation No. : 4696  
Examiner : Frederick J. Parker Customer No. : 28289

MAIL STOP RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 2, 2005, Applicant submits the following Request for Continued Examination (RCE), Petition for Extension of Time and the following amendments and remarks. This Amendment After Final Rejection is submitted on January 3, 2006. January 2, 2006 fell on a Federal holiday, thus this Amendment After Final Rejection is timely filed.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 3, 2006.

Florence P. Trevethan

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Florence P. Trevethan  
Signature

01/03/2006

Date